

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NAIROB 08653 101447Z

70

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 AID-05 COME-00 EB-03 LAB-01 SIL-01

DRC-01 /072 W

----- 073146

R 101415Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9570

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 8653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, KE

SUBJECT: A PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

SUMMARY: KENYA WILL FACE A DIFFICULT PERIOD FOLLOWING
ITS OCTOBER 14 GENERAL ELECTION THAT COULD SEE SIGNIFICANT
POLITICAL CHANGES UNRELATED TO THE ELECTION ITSELF. END SUMMARY

1. UNDER KENYA'S SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM, ITS OCTOBER 14
GENERAL ELECTION IS BEING FOUGHT IN TERMS OF LOCAL
ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES, SO FAR WITH REMARKABLY LITTLE
VIOLENCE. HOWEVER LARGE THE TURNOVER IN PARLIAMENT --
ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 45 TO 60PERCENT DEPENDING UPON
OBSERVERS PERCEPTION OF VOTER DISENCHANTMENT -- THE RESULTS
WILL NOT CHANGE BASIC GOK POLITICAL ORIENTATION.

2. MOST OF THOSE MINISTERS REPORTEDLY IN TROUBLE
(AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, LABOR, LANDS/SETTLEMENT, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, POWER/COMMUNICATIONS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NAIROB 08653 101447Z

TOURISM/WILDLIFE AND WORKS) ARE THEMSELVES PERIPHERAL TO

KEY POLICY MAKING, THEIR MINISTRIES IN MANY CASES RUN BY CIVIL SERVANTS. WHILE THE ELECTIONS HAVE HEIGHTENED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE KIKUYU ESTABLISHMENT, ONLY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, FOR. MIN. MUNGAI, APPEARS TO BE IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY. FORTUNATELY FOR KENYA, FINANCE MINISTER KIBAKI IS EXPECTED TO WIN IN HIS NEW RURAL CONSTITUENCY.

3. WE THEREFORE EXPECT TO BE DEALING WITH SIMILARLY ORIENTED GOVERNMENT AFTER ELECTIONS, BUT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE FACING MOUNTING PROBLEMS THAT CAN NO LONGER BE PUT OFF, PARTICULARLY THOSE CAUSED BY SOARING OIL PRICES, INFLATION AND RESULTING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES (SUBJECT OF SEPTEL). LABOR UNIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO TEST GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS REGARDING STRIKE BAN ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA (NAIROBI'S A-86). EVEN IF BAN NOT ENFORCED AFTER ELECTIONS, IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER KENYA'S HERETOFORE EFFECTIVE ARBITRATION MACHINERY (ONE OF THE NUMEROUS INSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND ETHIOPIA) CAN COPE WITH ACCELERATING LABOR PROBLEMS IN PERIOD OF SPIRALLING INFLATION. STUDENT PROBLEMS, DEFERRED BY CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY IN AUGUST, MAY COME TO FORE IN MORE SERIOUS FORM IF UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS FAIL TO TACKLE WHAT APPEAR TO BE GENUINE GRIEVANCES -- POOR FOOD, CROWDED DORMS, LACK OF TEACHERS -- AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON STRICTER STUDENT REGULATIONS PRIOR TO ANTICIPATED REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY IN NOVEMBER.

4. WHILE WE ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO SAY KENYA IS HEADING DOWN ETHIOPIAN ROAD, THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT MANY KENYANS HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF PARALLELS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND KENYA, E.G., AGING LEADER, CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES. MAMA NGINA HAS LONG BEEN TARGET OF FAIRLY OPEN CRITICISM BECAUSE OF HER UNRESTRAINED GREED, BUT IT HAS BEEN ONLY RECENTLY THAT EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH KENYATTA HIMSELF HAVE BECOME QUITE COMMON AMONG PROMINENT KENYANS INCLUDING KIKUYUS, MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES, AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS. WHILE THIS DISSATISFACTION IS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON PRESIDENT'S MASSIVE ACQUISITION OF LAND AND OTHER FORMS OF WEALTH, MANY SENIOR KENYAN OFFICIALS ALSO APPEAR FOR FIRST TIME TO BE SERIOUSLY QUESTIONING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NAIROB 08653 101447Z

KENYATTA'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO LEAD COUNTRY AND MAKE CORRECT DECISIONS.

5. KENYAN REACTIONS TO PUBLICITY GENERATED BY SAUL/MILLER CASE HAVE PROVIDED FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CHANGES UNRELATED TO ELECTION COULD BE IN OFFING. IMPACT OF INFLATION AND HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION ON ARMED FORCES, ALREADY UNHAPPY OVER BEING BADLY OUT-GUNNED BY

NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY SOMALIA, WHEN ETHIOPIAN ALLY LOOKING EVER LESS RELIABLE, ANOTHER POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR THIS EVALUATION. (DETAILED REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THESE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE CHANGE WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE EMBASSY MESSAGE WHEN THEIR SIGNIFICANCE BECOMES SOMEWHAT CLEARER).

6. IN MEANTIME, SENIOR KENYAN OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE COPING WITH AGING PRESIDENT WHO IS INCREASINGLY WITHDRAWN AND IRASCIBLE, MAKING SMOOTH FLOW OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AT TIME WHEN GOOD LEADERSHIP MORE NEEDED THAN EVER. TO MEET ITS DIFFICULTIES, IN KENYA WILL HAVE TO TURN TO ITS TRADITIONAL WESTERN FRIENDS FOR MORE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. BUT THOSE FRIENDS, BESET WITH OWN PROBLEMS AND CONCERNED ABOUT DIRECTION OF KENYAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, MAY WELL BE LESS RESPONSIVE THAN IN PAST, INCREASING KENYA'S SENSE OF ISOLATION AMONG HOSTILE OR UNCERTAIN NEIGHBORS. WHILE NOT WANTING TO GAZE TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD AT THIS POINT, WE SEE SOME POSSIBILITY THAT KENYA MAY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES FEEL REQUIRED TO REAPPRAISE ITS FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION.

MARSHALL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NAIROB08653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740288-0895
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741056/aaaabvwb.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE SUMMARY: KENYA WILL FACE A DIFFICULT PERIOD FOLLOWING
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005